

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-09

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R 151540Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2765
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USDEL ASWAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EG

SUBJECT: MAJOR CHANGES IN EGYPTIAN PRESS HIERARCHY

FROM MAESTRONE

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT SADAT ANNOUNCED MAJOR CHANGES
IN COMPOSITION OF STAFFS OF EGYPTIAN PRESS PUBLICATIONS.
HE ALSO FORMED HIGHER PRESS COUNCIL TO EXERCISE
CONTROL OF PRESS. NEW APPOINTMENTS APPEAR TO HAVE
THE EFFECT OF DIMINISHING LEFTIST INFLUENCE IN CERTAIN
NEWSPAPERS. END SUMMARY.

1. PRESIDENT SADAT, IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF
ARAB SOCIALIST UNION (ASU) ON MARCH 11 ANNOUNCED SOME
LONG AWAITED CHANGES IN EGYPTIAN PRESS. A HIGHER PRESS
CONCIL, AT LEAST 12 OF WHOSE 18 MEMBERS CAN PRESUMABLY
BE COUNTED UPON TO SUPPORT OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT POSITION-
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WILL EXERCISE CONTROL OVER FUTURE DIRECTION OF PRESS.

2. COUNCIL WILL BE HEADED BY ASU CENTRAL COMMITTEE FIRST SECRETARY AND WILL INCLUDE MINISTER OF INFORMATION, ASU SECRETARY FOR PROPAGATION AND IDEALOGY, DEPUTY SPEAKER OF PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY, PRESIDENT OF PRESS SYNDICATE, ONE COUNSELLOR FROM COURT OF APPEALS, THREE TO BE SELECTED FROM CHAIRMEN OF PRESS ORGANIZATIONS AND EDITORS-IN-CHIEF, THREE PUBLIC FIGURES, DEAN OF FACULTY OF COMMUNICATIONS, TWO FROM PRESS SYNDICATE'S COUNCIL, THREE JOURNALISTS WITH LESS THAN 15 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN PRESS WORK TO BE NOMINATED BY PRESS SYNDICATE'S COUNCIL AND CHAIRMAN OF GENERAL SYNDICATE OF PRINTING AND PUBLISHING TRADE UNION.

3. IHSAN ABDEL KUDDOUS, FORMER CONTRIBUTING EDITOR OF AL AHAM, HAS BEEN NAMED CHAIRMAN OF BOARD OF AL AHAM ORGANIZATION REPLACING DR. ABDEL QUAIR HATIM WHO WILL NOW WORK FULL TIME AT HIS DUTIES AS ASSISTANT TO PRESIDENT AND SUPERVISOR OF NATIONAL COUNCILS (EDUCATION, ECONOMY, PRODUCTION, ET AL.). ALI HAMDI EL GAMMAL, FORMER MANAGING EDITOR OF AL AHAM, HAS REPLACED AILING AHMED BAH A EL DIN AS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, ALTHOUGH LATTER WILL REMAIN ON STAFF OF ALAHAM.

4. ABDEL MONEIM EL SAWI, WHO IS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF PRESS SYNDICATE, REPLACED BAHGAT BADAWI AS CHAIRMAN OF BOARD OF AL TAHRIR PRINTING AND PUBLISHING HOUSE. LEFTIST-ORIENTED BADAWI WAS ALSO REPLACED AS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF AL GOMHOURIYA BY MOHSEN MOHAMED, FORMER MANAGING EDITOR OF AL AKHBAR. FORMER HAS BEEN NAMED TO STAFF OF AL AHAM, POSSIBLY TO WRITE COLUMN SIMILAR TO ONE THAT KUDDOUS WRITES.

5. IN OTHER MOVES, IBRAHIM EL WARDANI, WHO HAS BEEN UNEMPLOYED SINCE DISPUTE WITH BADAWI IN EARLY 1974, HAS RETURNED TO AL GOMHOURIYA - THIS TIME AS MANAGING EDITOR. IN WHAT APPEARS TO BE FURTHER ATTEMPT TO WEAKEN LEFTIS INFLUENCE AT ALGOMHOURIYA, TWO OF ITS WRITERS, HUSSEIN ABDEL RAZEK AND MRS. FARRIDA EL NAKKASH, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WERE ASSIGNED TO EDITORIAL STAFF OF AL AKHBAR. RAZEK AND NAKKASH (ALONG WITH MOHAMED AUDA) WERE AMONG LEFTIST WRITERS WHO WERE DISMISSED BY ASU DISCIPLINARY BODY IN FEBRUARY, 1973, FOR THEIR "POLITICAL DEVIATION." IT IS EXPECTED THAT THEY WILL JOIN ADELHUSSEIN AND PHILIP GALLAB, OTHER LEFTISTS ON AL AKHBAR EDITORIAL BOARD WHO, ACCORDING TO MONTHLY AL TALIA OF FEBRUARY, 1975, ARE "PRACTICALLY FORBIDDEN TO WRITE." THE INFLUENTIAL MOHAMED

AUDA, CONSIDERED BY MOST WRITERS AT AL GOMHOURIYA
AS THEIR MENTOR, AND ABDEL HAMID ABDEL NABI,
WHO ARE BOTH CONSIDERED COMMUNISTS IN EVERYTHING BUT
NAME, WERE APPOINTED TO EDITORIAL BOARD OF LEFTIST
ROSE EL YOUSEF.

6. AIRGRAM COMMENTING ON SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE CHANGES
FOLLOWS.
EILTS

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